

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 127
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI
SUBJECT: MORE ON SHARIA

REF: KADUNA 1077

1. ACCORDING TO NEW NIGERIAN, AUGUST 16, FOLLOWING FOUR MEMBERS OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (MCA) FROM BAUCHI HAVE JOINED 20 MCAS FROM KANO AND NIGER IN DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION RELATING TO THE JUDICATURE AND CALLING FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO BE RECONVENED: ALHAJI A.D. RUFAL, ALHAJI ABUBAKAR TUGGA, DR. IBRAHIM TAHIR AND DR. SULEIMAN KUMO.

2. DAILY TIMES, AUGUST 12, CARRIED SAME LIST OF KANO MCAS AS CONTAINED IN REFTEL WITH ADDITION OF ALHAJI BELLO MOHAMMED.

3. COMMENT: THE BURNING QUESTIONS ARE STILL: WILL THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY BE RECONVENED AND, IF SO, WHEN? WILL THE SMC MAKE CHANGES IN THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION? WHEN WILL THE BAN BE LIFTED ON POLITICS? THE PRESS HAS SPECULATED DURING THE PAST WEEK THAT CA CHAIRMAN UDOJI WILL PRESENT A CLEAN COPY OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION TO THE HEAD OF STATE NEXT WEEK. ALL MCAS HAD TO RETURN THEIR COPIES OF THE DRAFT WITH CORRECTIONS BY
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AUGUST 14 AND THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER IS NOW INCORPORATING THE CHANGES IN A FINAL DRAFT. THE PRESS FURTHER SPECULATES THAT THE SMC WILL RATIFY THE DRAFT AND THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE RECONVENED JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR OBASANJO TO THANK THE MCAS AND READ A DECREE PROMULGATING THE CONSTITUTION. NOWHERE IN THIS SCENARIO IS THERE ROOM FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE SHARIA QUESTION.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH THE QUESTION "WILL THE SMC MAKE CHANGES
IN THE DRAFT?", MCA CHIEF SAMUEL ONITIRI WAS QUOTED IN THE
PUNCH, AUGUST 16, AS SAYING "THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL HAS
GIVEN AN UNDERTAKING TO THE ASSEMBLY, IN WRITING, NOT TO DELETE
ANY PART OF " SECTION 207 CONCERNING QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES
FOR ELECTION. IF TRUE, HOWEVER, THIS MAY NOT BE INDICATIVE OF
AN OVERALL POLICY.
WYMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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